COVUS

HALO

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DEATH DEALER

based on the character
created by
FRANK FRAZETTA

story
GLENN DANZIG

art
SIMON BISLEY

cover painting
Frazetta

colors
MARK PACELLA

letters
BILL OAKLEY

separations
COLORWORKS

A CHORUS OF UNGODLY HOWLS FILLS THE VALLEY... SCORES OF BODIES REND AND GRAPPLE EACH OTHER, LIFELESS AND BLOODY...

...SCREAMS OF PAIN AND DEATH PIERCE EVERY EARDRUM!!
SCARRED AND BATTERED, ONE REVELED IN THE CARNAGE!!

CLEAVING BONE FROM MUSCLE...
THUK!
AAGGH!!!

...BODY FROM MIND!!
AND STILL...
...ONE AFTER ANOTHER, THEY CAME...
...AND THEY FELL!!

HIS DETERMINATION UNRELENTING...
THOK!
...UNTIL...
GRAAA!!
BAMM!
STAY STILL!!
AHAH!!
OOOF!!

THE TIDE TURNED WITH A FIST...
...THEN ANOTHER DEADLY BLOW TO THE SOFT OF THE THROAT!!
THE MAD WARRIOR BUCKLED...
WHAA--?!
N...NN-NOOO!! YOU...CAN'T HAVE IT...
IT'S MI--
HE LOOKED UP... OUT OF NOWHERE, THERE HE STOOD... FACE TO FACE.. WITH THIS MASSIVE BLACK APPARATION FROM HELL!!!
COME BACK!!

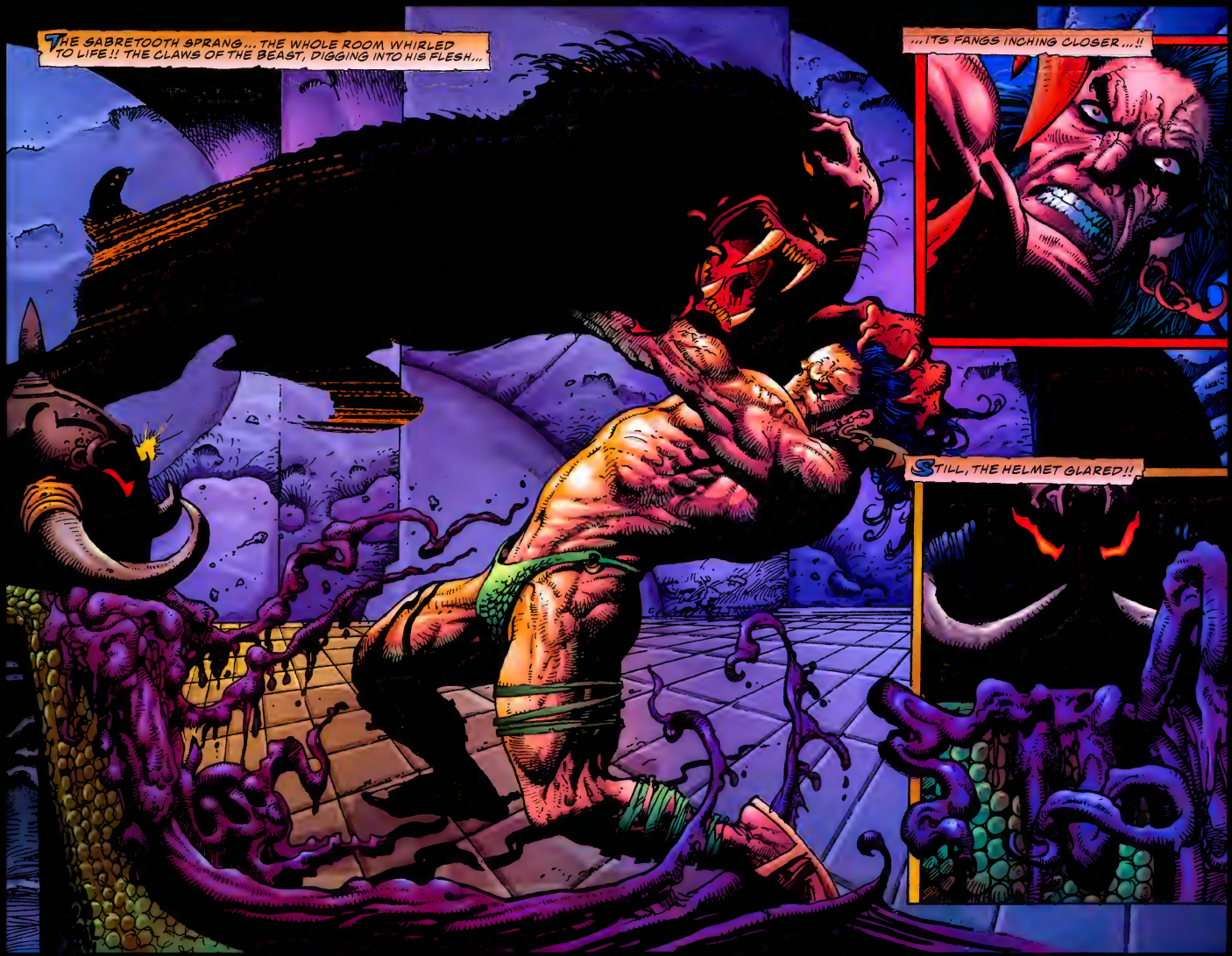
ITS MANE DANCED LIKE FIRE... AND ITS EYES GLOWED... THEN...
...IT THUNDERED AWAY AT A FURIOUS PACE, SNORTING LIKE A DEVIL, AS HE RAN AFTER IT!!
BUT IT WASN'T RUNNING AWAY... IT WAS LEADING HIM... BUT TO WHERE... WHERE...?
...THE KEEP!!
HE STOOD... FROZEN FOR A SECOND... IN A GARDEN OF DEATH... SO HUGE, IT DWARFED ALL ELSE!!

He made his way up the road of skeletons...
Silently, he crept down the corridor...
Shadows seemed to dart about him, stalking his every move!!
Further... into the darkness he descended!!

HE WHIRLED... MOMENTARILY BLINDED BY A SHAFT OF LIGHT THAT CUT OPEN THE DARKNESS!! THERE... OMINOUSLY... STARING DOWN ON HIM...

....IT WAS THE HELMET!!!

YESSS... HOW IT GLOWED!!
HE TOUCHED IT... MAKING SURE IT WAS REAL!!
FEELING ITS TEXTURE... HE STOPPED! HAD SOMETHING MOVED?!?
FRROWR!


THE SABRETOOTH SPRANG... THE WHOLE ROOM WHIRLED TO LIFE!! THE CLAWS OF THE BEAST, DIGGING INTO HIS FLESH...
...ITS FANGS INCHING CLOSER...!!
STILL, THE HELMET GLARED!!

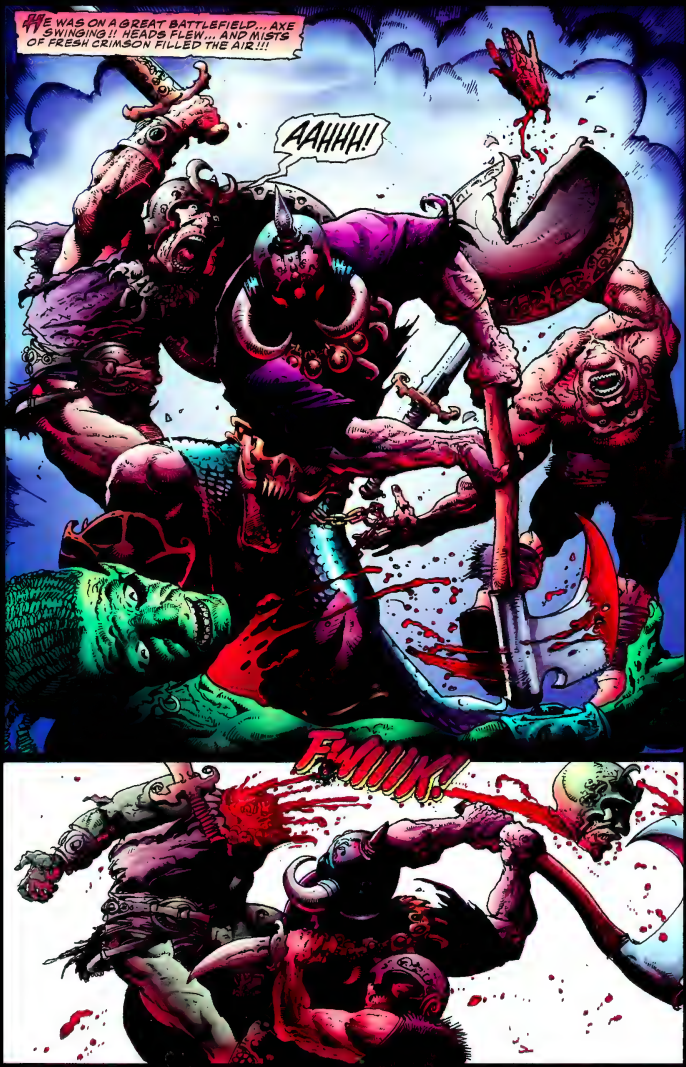
HE TRIED TO ROLL THE GREAT CAT OFF... BUT STILL IT CLUNG TO HIS SKIN!!
FINALLY HE LOOSENED ITS HOLD...
THE HELMET HUMMED...
...AND WITH A POWERFUL FIST, SENT IT REELING BACK!!
IT SPRANG AGAIN!!...
GRRROW!
...ITS PAWS SLICING THE AIR!!
HE LEAPT UP AND OVER THE BEAST...

AS HE FLEW BACK, THE CAT WAS TURNING TO READY FOR ANOTHER ATTACK...
HISSS!!
HIS HAND INSTINCTIVELY WENT FOR THE AXE!
HE SWUNG BACK THE WEAPON... WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT...
GRAARRR!
...AND WITH ONE SWING...
NOW, THE ONCE NEUTRAL HELMET MADE ITS MOVE... ITS COILING TENDRILS SNARING THE UNSUSPECTING WARRIOR!!
URRK!
...SLICED THE TIGER'S MASSIVE SKULL IN TWO!!

THEY ENTERED HIS THROAT AND NOSTRILS, WHILE OTHERS ENSNARED HIM, AT THE SAME TIME PULLING HIM CLOSER...
...CLOSER TO THE HELMET!!
IT HUGGED ITSELF TIGHTLY OVER HIS HEAD!!
THE STRUGGLE WAS OVER!!

INSTANTANEOUSLY, HIS BRAIN EXPLODED... KNEES BUCKLING...
HE AND THE HELMET WERE ONE!!!

IN A FLASH... IT WAS ANOTHER TIME! HE WAS SEEING THROUGH THE EYES OF THE HELMET!! BODIES LAY AT HIS FEET...SOME SCREAMING... OTHERS LIFELESS... HACKED BEYOND RECOGNITION!!


HE WAS ON A GREAT BATTLEFIELD... AXE SWINGING!! HEADS FLEW... AND MISTS OF FRESH CRIMSON FILLED THE AIR!!!
AAHHH!
FWUUK!

LIKE SECOND NATURE... WHAT THE HELMET SAW... THE AXE WAS THERE!! HE FELT THE STINGING OF SWORD GASHES IN HIS FLESH... AND ARROWS STUDDED HIS BODY LIKE ORNAMENTS... BUT EACH KILL ONLY SEEMED TO ENERGIZE HIM!!!
THU

THE HELMET.. IT WAS MAKING HIM REMEMBER... ALL THE DEATH... THE PAIN... THE POWER... THE BETRAYAL!! FEARING HIS POWER, THE KINGS AND LORDS, WHOM HE HAD MADE RICH, BUILT DYNASTIES FOR, HAD CONSPIRED TOGETHER AGAINST HIM!!
KU-FWAKK!

THE SOUNDS OF THE DYING BECAME LIKE SOME MAD SYMPHONY OF CARNAGE IN HIS HEAD...
IT DROVE HIM ON...
...AND ON...
...HIS BODY, A LIVING SHEATHE OF ARROWS... AND STILL HE FOUGHT!!
BUT TO NO AVAIL... HE WAS TAKEN!!

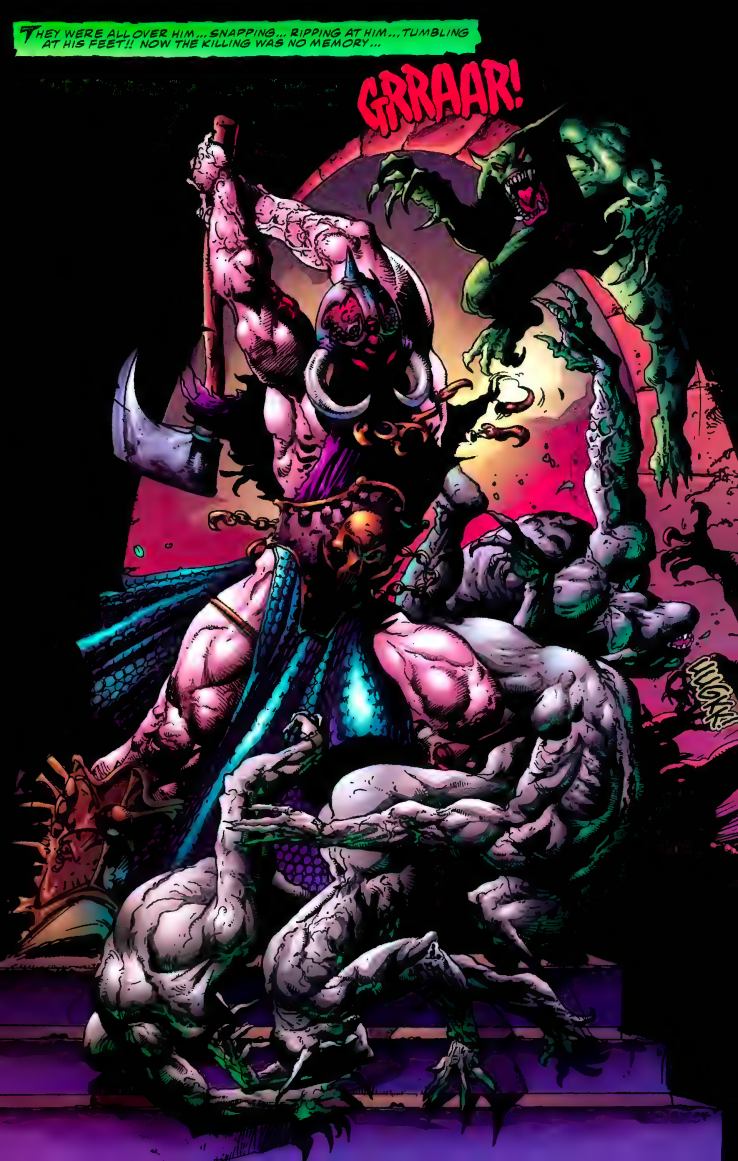
IN BLOOD-SOAKED DEVOTED SERVICE, THE LORDS HAD HIM CRUCIFIED UPSIDE DOWN... HIS HELMETED-HEAD TO BE SEVERED AND HIDDEN FOREVER IN A SECRET CASTLE-KEEP... THERE TO REMAIN IN DARKNESS AND SOLITUDE!
I SHALL NOT DIE!!
DO IT!!
THUK!
HIS HAND JUTTED OUT, CLUTCHING THE EXECUTIONER'S NECK...
...A LAST FINAL ACT...
KRAK
...OF DEFIANCE!!

IT WAS OVER... HE WAS BACK IN THE TOMB! HE PUT HIS HAND TO HIS NECK...IT STILL ACHED!! THIS WAS NO DREAM... THE HELMET HAD SHOWN HIM ITS PAST... ITS BETRAYAL!! AND NOW THROUGH HIM, HANDPICKED BY THE HELMET...IT WOULD BE AVENGED!! IT SCREAMED IN HIS HEAD.. VENGEANCE
VENGEANCE!!!

JUST THEN, THE GROUND JOLTED... THE TOMB...THE KEEP...EVERYTHING WAS RAPIDLY CRUMBLING AROUND HIM!! HE LURCHED BACK, AND NOW HE, TOO, WAS TUMBLING, FALLING... DOWN... DOWN...
BAMM!
CRASHH!
THE SMOKE CLEARED...HE LAY BATTERED, BUT STILL ALIVE IN A PILE OF RUBBLE... HALF-BURIED...AXE STILL AT HIS SIDE!!
AND THEN THEY CAME!!

DRESSING HIM IN THE DARKNESS... THE CAT-LIKE FORMS PREPARED HIM QUICKLY!
HE BOLTED UP!! THE HELMET TURNED ...THERE THEY WERE...
HISSS!
SSSS!
THEY RAN... AND HE WAS AFTER THEM...
FOLLOW USSS! HSSS!!

THE HELMET WAS VIBRATING SOFTLY... IT WAS A TRAP!!
DEMONS!!


THEY WERE ALL OVER HIM... SNAPPING... RIPPING AT HIM... TUMBLING AT HIS FEET!! NOW THE KILLING WAS NO MEMORY...
GRRAAR!

...IT WAS REALITY!!!
AAGH!
GRRR!
THE AXE CLEAVED INTO ANOTHER... AND ANOTHER!!
AAIIEE!
THE SCREAMS OF THE DEMONS CAME SO FAST, THEY LAYERED ON TOP OF EACH OTHER!!

EACH SWING OF THE THICK BLADE SENT A HEAD... ARM...
...A BODY... FLYING IN MID-AIR... IN A BLOODY STREAM OF STILLNESS!!

AND ALL WAS STILL... AS THERE HE STOOD... AMONG A HEAP OF DEAD AND GURGLING DEMONS... WHO SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN...

...THE CAT-WOMEN!!
THEY WERE BACK... TAUNTING AGAIN... WHAT DID THEY WANT?... WHAT WAS THEIR PART IN THIS UNFOLDING MADNESS?! LOOKING UP, HE SAW IT... A THRONE... THEY HAD LED HIM TO HIS THRONE!!

...THE HORSE!! THIS SUPERNATURAL CREATURE HAD LED HIM TO THE KEEP... TO HIS NEW DESTINY... AS IF IT KNEW ALL ALONG... WAITING PATIENTLY FOR HIM TO EMERGE...
...IT WAS THE DEATH DEALER'S HORSE... AND IT WAITED FOR HIS RETURN!!

NOW, WE ARE TOGETHER AGAIN... LET THIS NEW DAY MAKE MEN AND KINGS FEAR... BLOOD WILL COVER THIS LAND... A RAIN SO RED!! LET THE VENGEANCE BEGIN !!!

The first Death Dealer painting reaches into the depths of your soul. It is a powerful image of death in a more primeval setting. People from all walks of life, clergyman, the military, even guys on death row were moved by this character.

prints of Frank Frazetta's work have hung on my walls most of my life. i have spent hours studying his paintings. trying to figure out how he does it.

is he possessed?

truth is Frank is a natural. an original. to work with someone like this, to me, is so many things. an honor. privilege. labour of love.

it's not hard to be in awe of true talent. it rears its head so rarely.

i hope you enjoy our collaboration.

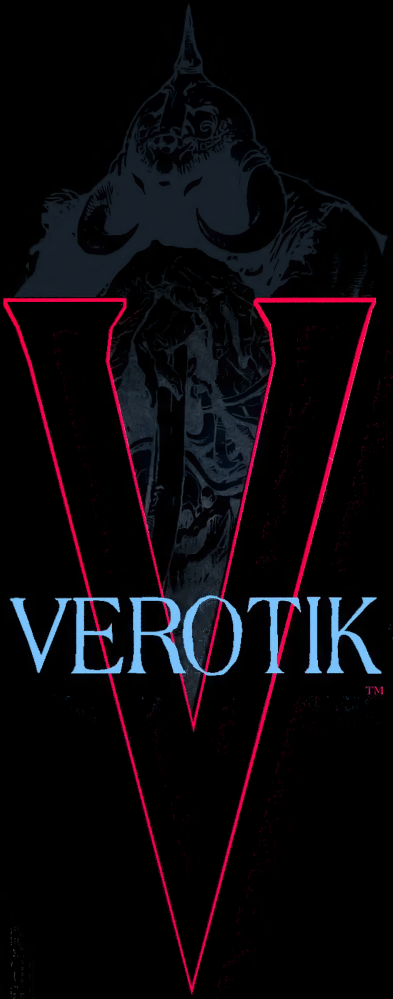
now lets tally up the body count.

Glenn Danzig

Photo by Mark Lewalona

My first opportunity to see Frank Frazetta's work came when my father brought me into a book shop. I saw a paperback book with one of his Conan The Barbarian paintings on the cover. I was totally stunned by the image, and from then on I collected every copy of Frank's work I could find. Now, years later, I have the privilege of drawing Frazetta's character, Death Dealer, for Verotik. For me, this is a dream come true and a great opportunity to kick some ass.

SIMON BISLEY



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